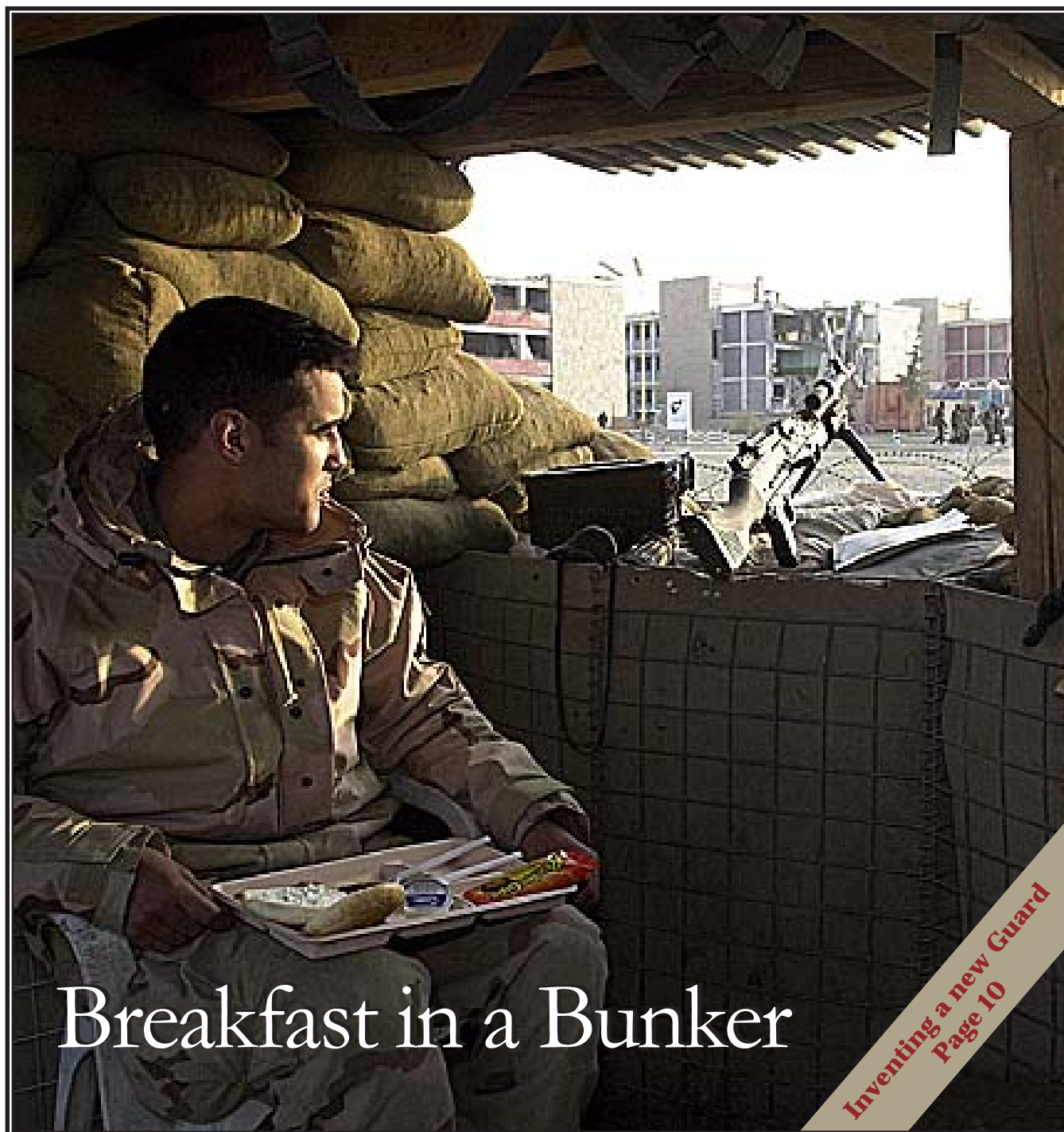




Spring 2003

Minuteman

For the soldiers & airmen of the Massachusetts National Guard



Breakfast in a Bunker

*Inventing a new Guard
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ALSO INSIDE: Force Protection, 1058th in Kuwait, Boston Marathon, Elementary vs. Engineers, Malden Colonels, Love Letter

Governor brings praise and sun to 102nd Fighter Wing

By Clifford McDonald, 102nd Fighter Wing PAO

The sun came out and shined brightly on what was forecasted to be a cloudy and rainy day as Gov. Mitt Romney, the commander-in-chief of the Massachusetts National Guard, recently dropped in on the 102nd Fighter Wing.

The governor stepped smartly from an Army Humvee onto the tarmac at Otis Air National Guard Base.

With Maj. Gen. George Keefe, The Adjutant General, escorting the governor, both men made their way to the speaking platform as an F-15 fighter jet roared overhead.

With America at war, the governor addressed an assembly of eagerly awaiting soldiers, airmen, and Coast Guard personnel at the base. He explained to these men and women charged with homeland defense, keeping the state safe, and in some cases fighting overseas, how much he appreciated their service to the country.

But the governor has done more than just talk. He recently filed legislation that would provide state employees on unpaid military leave up to \$1,000 a month to partially make up the difference between military and civilian pay.

Romney was an advocate for the National Guard even before he won the gubernatorial election. As head of the Winter Olympics in Utah he helped and supported the troops providing security for the games.

Standing before a F-15 Eagle fighter jet and Black Hawk helicopter, Romney said, "It's an honor to see you and be with you here today. Thank you for the service you provide to the commonwealth and to the nation. Thank you for accepting the call to service in the National Guard, the reserves and on active duty. Your willingness to serve and protect our nation around the world, and here at home is something which we salute and thank you for."

The governor explained how he sleeps a lot better at night knowing that F-15s at Otis are ready to scramble if terrorists attack our nuclear power plants, bridges, and buildings.

He is also reassured knowing that pilots are flying patrols, and that servicemen and women are caring for our homeland.

"I recognize that you do this not as an exercise, not as just a training mission, but as the real deal," he said.

"Just this week," he said, "I had the privilege of announcing that it was our selection that when we name the new tunnel which will take



Photo by Clifford McDonald, 102nd Fighter Wing PAO

hundreds of thousands of people through the city of Boston, that we should name this tunnel after the principle that was cradled here - the principle of liberty. And to the men and women who protect the liberty of this nation, we salute you. We salute all of them whose lives have been given, and whose blood has been spilled to protect our liberty."

Romney concluded by commenting on those who are serving in the war in Iraq, "What a sacrifice, what a commitment, what a sense of democracy and courage. What a sense of honor is held by all those in our armed services to respond to the call of the commander-in-chief, the President of the United States, without questioning orders, to do as commanded. A command, I believe is designed to bring peace, to reduce the risk of terrorism, and provide us in our nation a high degree of security."

Furthermore, the governor mentioned the families of those who serve, saying, "to them I offer a special word of appreciation and thanks. And, particularly to those whose families are today sacrificing knowing that their loved ones are far away. We love them, we care for them, we salute them."

In parting, the governor called for a round of applause for all of our men and women who are there, who are fighting for us, and for all those who will be going there.

Before departing the base, he took time to shake hands, and take pictures with those attending the event.

Gov. Mitt Romney speaks to a formation of military men and women gathered at Otis Air National Guard Base as the Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. George Keefe, looks on.

Visit the Massachusetts
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Minuteman

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On the cover
Spec. Eric Cabral, 772nd Military
Police Company, enjoys his
breakfast. The Massachusetts
National Guard unit provided
force protection in Kabul,
Afghanistan. (Photo by Capt.
Charles Mussi, NGB-PA)

Photo by Sgt. Jordan St. John, STARC PAO



RESTRAINING TERROR: A demonstration on proper restraint tactics was given to some 200 soldiers of the 101st and 102nd Field Artillery, who spent April drill at Camp Edwards getting basic instruction on force protection.

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The National Guard on guard

Force protection has become standard since terrorists attacks

By Sgt. Jordan St. John, STARC PAO

Force protection is a well-known concept in the lexicon of the military.

But it's a concept that was dealt with primarily in principle and in training by the National Guard until Sept. 11, 2001.

That fateful day forever changed the way Americans live and greatly changed the way the National Guard relates to force protection. The principle of force protection became the practice of force protection.

"Since 9/11, we've had Massachusetts Guardsmen protecting airports, power stations, bridges, water supplies, and other critical functions," said Master Sgt. Paul Correa, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Massachusetts Force Protection unit. For security reasons the exact number of Guard soldiers on force protection duty is not detailed, nor are the sites of missions.

But some force protection places are evident. Formerly open sites and bases like the Massachusetts Military Reservation now have armed Guard soldiers at the entrances and gates.

"The job can be very demanding," said Cpl. Brad Correa who, along with Sgt. Philip Stock was guarding the MMR main gate.

"This is a drill weekend, so we might have as many as 3,000 people coming to Camp Edwards and everyone gets a full ID check," the corporal said.

The two soldiers have been part of the Force Protection effort since shortly after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Their work included reviewing the identification of a truck driver and his load of office equipment. The vehicle was checked and its contents inspected by one soldier while another stood yards away, M-16 at the ready.

The bill of lading was scrutinized. A point of contact at the delivery site was called so an escort could be sent to guide the truck to its destination. This type of force protection activity was unknown for decades at Camp Edwards, but is now business as usual.

"In addition to gate security, we have roving patrols throughout the reservation," said Staff Sgt. Angelo F. Ortiz, the NCOIC of MMR Force Protection soldiers.

"While our mission has been modified since 9/11," said Master Sgt. Correa, "it remains an active and demanding mission that continues to change and grow with the circumstances of the day."

The war in Iraq caused a heightened alert status and showed the military's reliance on National Guard forces. The latest Department of Defense figures say 218,000 National Guard and reserve members have been called to active duty.

Many of those soldiers are serving in the U.S. and their number includes those assigned to force protection duties like the Guard members at the Massachusetts Military Reservation.

Force protection has added a role to the Massachusetts Guard. Some 200 members of the 101st and 102nd Field Artillery spent the weekend drill at Camp Edwards getting basic instruction on force protection. These soldiers will become another force protection resource.

"If a situation ever happens in a city or town that involves terrorism or some other organized attack, these soldiers would respond to support the local law enforcement first responders," Master Sgt. Correa said.

The initial April training session was the beginning of a 30 to 45 day process for the artillery soldiers. It is part of the continuing and growing presence of the National Guard as an essential part of the active U.S. military and illustrates the growing seamless nature of today's Army.

Cpl. Brad Correa checks a driver's identification at the Massachusetts Military Reservation gate. Correa has been on active duty since shortly after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.



Photo by Sgt. Jordan St. John, STARC PAO

Over 90 years combined for these Malden birds

By Sgt. Jordan St. John, STARC PAO

The city of Malden is well represented in the leadership of the Massachusetts Army National Guard. Three people who are colonels in the National Guard grew up just a few blocks away from each other and all attended Malden High.

Sheila Edwards, Joseph W. Mercuri, and Steven Valente were also recently inducted into the Massachusetts National Guard's Regional Training Institute Hall of Fame. In order to be inducted into the Regional Training Institute Hall of Fame, an officer must have been a graduate of the institution and received federal recognition in the rank of Colonel or higher.

There is an additional similarity in the careers of the three; they all started their military careers as enlisted soldiers. Edwards initially was a member of the 101st Engineer Battalion and later, as a trumpet player, assigned to the 26th Yankee Division Band. "I had been told that I would make a good officer, but didn't take it to seriously until I met a girl I had gone to junior high with," she said. "She had joined the Guard through the Civilian Acquires Skills Program and outranked me. When I saw that, I went straight to the orderly room and said give me those OCS papers now."

Edwards is the first woman promoted to colonel in the Commonwealth's Army National Guard and the first female inductee into the Hall of Fame. She is also the first female full-time technician in the Massachusetts National Guard to reach that rank. Edwards is currently the State Planning, Operations and Military Support Officer for the Massachusetts National Guard.

For Mercuri, it was the encouragement of a family member that triggered his interest in the military. "I was just starting college and was interested in serving my country while I continued my education," he explained. "My uncle Silvio Mercuri was an active Army recruiter for the Malden area, and with his encouragement, I decided to join the Army Reserve."

Mercuri later transferred to the Massachusetts National Guard to continue pursuing a career as a Field Artillery officer and was instrumental in building the Regional Training Institute (RTI), which trains officer candidates and artillery personnel from across Northeast. Mercuri has also served as a battery commander with the 1st Battalion of the 101st Field Artillery and as commander of the RTI. Currently Director of Public Affairs, he coordinates command information, public information and community relations for the Massachusetts National Guard. A successful businessman, Mercuri is president of the Massachusetts Beauty and Barber Supply Company, a firm he started in Somerville in 1977.

Colonel Valente started as an enlisted rifleman in the 1st Battalion, 182nd Infantry. He later became an officer and served as a company commander, operations officer and battalion commander with the 182nd. He also served as an Operations Officer with the RTI, and is currently serving as commander of Detachment 2 and as the Deputy State Director of the Selective Service System.

"The military has had a significant influence in my life, in the military and as a civilian," said Valente. "The best part is the long line of friendships I have made. I hope that what I offered as a commander and trainer all these years has helped contribute to the dedication and high performance of National Guard soldiers I've worked with."

Valente, who is a senior technical specialist and supervisor with the Polaroid Corporation and a deputy sheriff in Middlesex County, said that community involvement is also an important part of his life. That involvement includes coaching city hockey for some 10 years and working in an annual Christmas toy collection drive to benefit underprivileged children.

Together, the three colonels from Malden have more than 90 years of combined service as citizen-soldiers. Through them the city of Malden is well represented, indeed.



Photo by Capt. Winfield Danielson, STARC PAO

L-R: Colonels Steven Valente, Sheila Edwards, and Joseph W. Mercuri were recently inducted into the Massachusetts National Guard's Regional Training Institute Hall of Fame. The three grew up in the city of Malden and attended Malden High School. Edwards is the first female officer to be inducted.

SHORT TAKES

104th's McClelland name guardsman of the month

A member of the 104th Infantry (Light), Company C, was Tobyhanna's non-commissioned officer (NCO) of the month for January.

Sgt. Brian McClelland, a team leader in the unit, earned the recognition for outstanding duty performance.

"Sgt. McClelland was selected as the Tobyhanna NCO of the Month because he is well versed in military knowledge and displays excellent military bearing, professionalism and confidence," explained depot Sgt. Maj. Elizabeth Lawrence.

McClelland has been in the Massachusetts Army National Guard for seven years. Tobyhanna is his first deployment. The unit is augmenting the depot's security force.

As a civilian, he works for the Department for Youth Services, Brewster, Mass., in the Forestry Program. McClelland graduated from Monument Mountain Regional High School, Great Barrington, Mass., in 1996.

He says he would like to be an instructor for the U.S. Army Mountain Warfare School in Jericho, Vt., where his unit occasionally trains.



focus is the citizen-soldier. "The personal stories of brave men and women who have served our nation for nearly four centuries embody the delicate balancing act of service at home and abroad."

The museum took 19 months to design and construct. Every state is represented. Many of the artifacts and photographs on display are on loan from the states. The museum cost \$1.75 million to build.

GI Bill can be used for more than a college education

Actually, it never was just for college, but ask the average reservist what the GI Bill is for and the chances are he or she will say, "College". It's true that the GI Bill can be a valuable resource in funding a college education, providing up to \$9,900 for reservists and \$32,400 under the active duty program.

But very few people realize that GI Bill benefits can also be used for apprenticeship programs and on-the-job training. Based on informal surveys conducted over the past few years, the Education Services Office of the Massachusetts Army National Guard estimates that 99% of soldiers believe the Montgomery GI Bill can only be used for college.

The fact is that soldiers and airmen can receive monthly benefit payments while working full-time and earning wages if they are an apprentice in a registered program. Currently 550 employers in Massachusetts have apprenticeship programs registered through the Mass. Division of Apprentice Training, and the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) has over 115,000 employers registered nationwide.

An apprentice is a person who works for another person in order to learn a trade. The basic requirements for an apprentice program to gain approval include 2,000 hours of on-the-job training and 150 hours of classroom instruction each year. The Mass. Division of Apprentice Training recognizes 91 trades ranging from Air Conditioning Mechanic to Welder and the USDOL recognizes over 850 trades on its national list.

If a soldier or airman is an apprentice in an approved program, and meets the eligibility requirements for the GI Bill, he or she can apply for benefits during the apprenticeship period.

few people realize that GI Bill benefits can also be used for apprenticeship programs and on-the-job training.

National Guard Museum opens in Washington

The only national museum dedicated to the National Guard opened its doors to the general public March 17 with a decidedly Massachusetts presence.

The museum is the featured attraction of the National Guard Memorial Building in Washington, D.C.

The 5,600 square-foot facility includes displays, exhibits and a video presentation taking visitors from the First Muster in 1636 on the Town Green in Salem, Massachusetts to the Guard's response to the attack of September 11th and continuing work on safeguarding the country from further terrorist attack.

Leslie Cook, the museum's curator and fund development director, said that the exhibit's

Most apprentice programs last from one to five years.

Guard lends a hand with Special Olympics

On May 10, over 400 Cape area kids had a great day at the Special Olympics at Barnstable High School. Members of the Army National Guard from Camp Edwards participated in the festivities and presented contestants with the awards.

The Special Olympics has become a cherished tradition to the families and friends of children with Down Syndrome. All participants win medals and enjoy the spirit of the event. Sgt. 1st Class Murphy, whose granddaughter participated said, "We all had a great time and would do it again next year."

National Guard volunteers included: Lt. Jerrime Oliver, Sgt, 1st Class Frank Murphy, Staff Sergeants Thomas Klemm and Gary Adams, Sgt. Russell Nord, Sgt. Robert Silva and Pfc. Rockett. Participants and their families were glad to have the guardsmen in attendance.

Brian Dextradour of the Greater Cape and Islands Special Olympics Committee was grateful to the Guard for their help. "They did a great job, and hung in until the last competition and the last athlete honored. We were proud to have them on our team. The games were a great success for the athletes who took special pride in their accomplishments, and in the special honor of receiving medals from these men in uniform."

For their part the Massachusetts Army National Guard soldiers were happy to contribute to this important community tradition and plan to volunteer again next year. Lt. Oliver echoed the sentiments of the soldiers, "We

enjoyed the day and were very happy to reward the athletes for a job well done."

Carter named to the RTI Hall of Fame

Joseph Carter, the Chief of Police for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) Police Department, has become one of the latest members of the Massachusetts Army National Guard Officer Candidate Course Hall of Fame. Carter was officially made a member of the Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame of the Massachusetts National Guard's 101st Regiment Regional Training Institute (RTI) in late March. He is a graduate of the Massachusetts Military Academy and his induction to the Hall of Fame is a result of his distinguished career in the Massachusetts Army National Guard and being federally recognized as a colonel in the United States Army

Carter is a colonel in the Massachusetts Army National Guard and the former Commander of the Army National Guard Training Site at Camp Edwards on Cape Cod.

He has been a member of the Massachusetts Army National Guard since 1974 when he began his military career as an enlisted soldier, rising to the rank of staff sergeant before entering the Massachusetts Military Academy Officer Candidate Course and being commissioned as an officer in the Guard.

Born in Boston, Carter began his civilian law enforcement career with the Boston Police Department. He served on that police force for 20 years, rising through the ranks from patrol officer to detective, patrol supervisor, deputy superintendent, to superintendent. As a senior ranking member of the Boston PD, he was appointed commander of the Bureau of Neighborhood Services, which later became the Bureau of Special Operations.

Following his service in Boston, Carter became Chief of the Oak Bluffs Police Department on Martha's Vineyard. Under his leadership, the Oak Bluffs department moved to a problem solving policing philosophy and developed programs to modernize its operation. Through these efforts, the department was the first police force in the Cape and Islands region to attain state certification. They have nearly completed the process for full accreditation.

The Oak Bluffs Police Department was the first police force in the Cape and Islands region to attain state certification. They have nearly completed the process for full accreditation.



A day at the beach with the 1058th

By Spc. David Claffey, STARC PAO

The sandy desert of Iraq is a far cry from the sandy beaches of Hingham, but the Massachusetts National Guard's 1058th Transportation Company now calls both home. For almost two months, the truck driving guardsmen have endured the heat, sand and gunfire to help ensure U.S. Central Command can move personnel and equipment where it is needed.

Missions to the interior of the war-torn nation last five to seven days, and

been equipped with special GPS tracking devices, durable laptops and antenna so vehicles and the company headquarters are able to see the location of the convoy and send emails.

It's not just their trucks that are moving. The unit has changed camps five times since coming to the Middle East, forcing many soldiers to live out of their duffel bags, but they realize the constant packing is due to their success and have kept a surprisingly positive attitude. Their newest camp has phone service, the sun dries wet laundry in under an hour and the company had a big Memorial Day picnic with hamburgers, hotdogs, horseshoes and semi-beach volleyball.

The trip has also been free of any casualties, aside from a bumped head that required a few stitches, and the troops remain focused on what is important.

"Any mission where everyone comes home safe is a good mission, despite the confusion," said Spc. Angelynn Andino. The Mass. Guard troops have braved the 110-degree heat, camel caravans, desert spiders and a fallen regime that was set on killing them. Despite these difficulties, the 1058th has overcome and excelled as Massachusetts National Guard soldiers have for over 365 years.



Photo by 1058th Trans. Company

Driving down an empty Baghdad road, the 1058th takes supplies into the captured Iraq capital. For two months, Guard trucks have been a pipeline for troops on the front lines.

continue as coalition forces secure the country. The unit transports troops and equipment between Kuwait and Iraq for the 1st Armor Division and the 3rd Infantry Division. They were in the heat of the battle, at times, traversing the long supply lines that are still dangerous.

"There have been several incidents with civilians protesting," said Capt. Christine Hoffmann, company commander. "Children attempt to jump on moving vehicles in the hopes of stopping a convoy to loot the vehicles. We now have military police escorts to protect the convoys, since there are still small pockets of resistance."

The mission got dangerous when a civilian vehicle struck four trucks in a 25-vehicle convoy. No soldiers were seriously injured, but the Iraqi driver needed medical attention. Even with incidents like these threatening the unit, Hoffmann is confident the 1058th will continue to be successful.

The area is still dangerous, but training has minimized the risk to the company, said Hoffmann. The trucks have



Photo by Staff Sgt. Carin Smith, State Aviation Office

Military duffel bags line the road at Fort Drum, N.Y. as the 1058th prepared for deployment to the Middle East, where they have played a significant role in supplying and transporting front-line troops

Deployed airman reaches out on a knee

By Lynn Tryba, *The Nashua Telegraph*

This is a love letter from Senior Airman Christian Fiore II to Brandy Lee Mason. It's a declaration of love from a local boy at war to the hometown sweetheart he left behind.

Although he's only 20, Fiore is a throwback to an earlier era. He believes in romance and old-fashioned values, in treating a woman well and being forthright about his feelings.

Which is why he still feels bad about popping the question to Mason over his cellular phone several weeks ago. This story is his way of making up for it. More than anything, the Merrimack resident wanted to be down on one knee when he asked his 19-year-old Nashua girlfriend if she would be his bride.

The problem was that Fiore, a member of the Massachusetts Air National Guard, is stationed in the Persian Gulf with the 267th Combat Communications Squadron.

To compensate for the proposal's lack of romance, Fiore e-mailed *The Telegraph* last week, asking the paper to write a story. He wants Mason to know he loves her and that he can't wait to get home so they can be married.

Mason already knows all this. But a girl doesn't mind hearing it again.

She recounted the moments that led to the cell-phone proposal. Fiore was telling her how much he appreciated everything she did for him, and how sweet he thought she was.

And then, suddenly, he said: "I want you to be my wife. Will you marry me?"

Her tears started flowing. Mason needed to know if he was sure. They had discussed marriage before and the sacrifices she would have to make as a military wife, but still . . .

He was sure, he said, but he wanted to know why she was crying. She couldn't believe what had just happened. She couldn't believe the intensity of her feelings was mutual, that he loved her as much as she loved him.

She said yes.

The wedding is scheduled for June 5, 2004. The date gives Fiore enough time to return home from his tour of duty, which could stretch anywhere from 12 to 18 months. He is a satellite technician for the Air Force. Mason affectionately calls him something of a computer geek.

She knows him well, considering the couple just celebrated their six-month anniversary on Friday. They dated for just four months before Fiore shipped out Jan. 22.

But this wasn't four months of cautious, getting-to-know-you-over-coffee dating. No, this was dating, Christian Fiore style, straight up and straightforward, take no prisoners. From the moment he saw Mason, he was a young man on a mission.

The two met at a welcome-home party Fiore's family threw for him in September when he returned from a seven-month tour in Oman and Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. His younger sister, Andrea, invited Mason, a friend of hers from St. Joseph School of Practical Nursing.

When Mason got out of her car, she saw Fiore immediately. She recognized him as having been a grade ahead of her at Nashua High School. They reintroduced themselves.

"When she got to the party, I couldn't believe how beautiful she was," Fiore confided in one of his e-mails to *The Telegraph*. "All that was going through my mind was that she is way out of my league."

By the end of the night he had slipped on a Frank Sinatra tune called "Witchcraft" and asked her to dance.

"He's a true gentleman," Mason said. "He's very old-fashioned." The dance was the first of a series of romantic gestures. Fiore opened doors, insisted on paying for everything and bombarded her with bouquets. He spent almost every day with her and was unfailingly polite to her family, although sometimes discussions about President Bush with Mason's grandmother got a bit heated.

Fiore, no slouch in the looks department, is correct in describing his fiancée as beautiful. Mason, who wants to someday care for children with cancer, has delicate features, light blue eyes and a lovely smile. She has the type of open, sweet face that a sick little girl would want hovering above her.

Mason's mother, Kathy Eckles, knew Fiore was a "keeper" as soon as she heard of the Sinatra incident. When he went off to war, she began telling people: "He's the one."

"I want you to be my wife. Will you marry me?"

Brandy Lee Mason opens a package from her fiancé, Christian Fiore II, who is overseas with the Air Force participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Photo by Dan Williamson, *The Nashua Telegraph*

Mechanic creates his own way

By Sgt. Jordan St. John, STARC PAO



Photo by Sgt. Jordan St. John, STARC PAO

Sergeant Andres Chamorro demonstrates the landing wheel assembly holding-arm that he developed to make it easier when changing tires on UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters.

Bourne, is a full-time technician with the Guard and spends his workday keeping the 126th's UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters ready to fly. Occasionally during that work, Andy, as he's known to his coworkers, runs into a maintenance problem that triggers an inventive insight that drives a solution.

"Andy is one of the most inventive soldiers I've ever encountered," said Frank Chase, senior aviation writer for PS, The Monthly Preventive Maintenance Magazine that is published by the Army's Redstone Arsenal. "Andy's ideas easily make up 70 to 80 percent of the SMART program ideas that I've received in the last couple of years. Each time they were great inventions and improvements for making maintenance more user friendly for the soldiers working on this complicated aircraft."

Chamorro has had nine ideas and proposals reviewed, evaluated and accepted by the Army Aviation and Missile Command through the SMART Program and he says that he's already at work on number 10. For each accepted idea, he gets a modest cash award. But, he says that the real reward is coming up with a way to make everyone's job a bit easier to do.

C Company 1st Sgt. James Campbell, describes Chamorro as a unique and talented individual who is a very valuable member of the unit. He said, "If you've got a problem, just bring it to Andy. If you got a job to do and need help to figure it out, just bring it to Andy. When something has to get done, he's the guy to go to."

Sgt. Andres Chamorro, Jr., an air frame mechanic with the Massachusetts Army National Guard's C Company, 126th Aviation, never met a maintenance problem he couldn't solve. At least, that is how it seems to other soldiers in the unit and to the folks who run the Department of the Army's Project SMART/TIPS program.

Chamorro, 45 years old and a resident of

A recent example of Chamorro's innovation can be found in the January 2003 edition of PS Magazine on pages 40 – 41. The article describes a tool he invented that replaces a C-clamp and wooden block procedure for replacing a yoke in the tail landing gear of a UH-60. The tool prevents damage to the new waster and yoke during installation, and cuts repair time to 30 minutes.

"I just looked at how difficult and cumbersome that yoke replace procedure was and thought there had to be a better way to install that yoke," said Chamorro. "After some tinkering in the machine shop and the building of a couple of prototypes, I developed a tool that does the job."

Chamorro, who was born in Puerto Rico, said over 20 years ago he found the perfect job and a great career in the Army National Guard. "Every time I see a soldier having to struggle just to get a job done, I think there has to be something that will make that work easier and more effective to do. Then, after a little bit of thought and work, I come up with a solution to the problem."

Getting an idea accepted by the Army and including it in official technical manuals is not an easy task. Once a prototype has been developed and detailed mechanical drawings have been done, they must be sent to the Army labs for evaluation and rigorous testing in the lab and in the field. In the case of a helicopter tool, the evolution and testing is done at the U. S. Army Aviation and Missile Command.

Chamorro's work has been recognized in many quarters. He was cited for his work last year during a transition course run by Nolan E. Billiot, an UH-60 Rotary Wing Instructor at the U.S. Army Aviation Logistics School when the 126th Aviation was getting the UH-60 helicopters to replace the aging UH-1's. In an official letter of appreciation, Nolan stated, "Sgt. Chamorro has an uncanny ability to identify a need for a special tool, visualize a tool to perform the job, and manufacture the tools. He is a resourceful, creative and solution-oriented person who comes up with new and innovative approaches to projects."

That impulse to come up with a better way to do a particular job and the vision to see the solution to a persistent problem combine to result in Chamorro's inventions. Some of the items he's developed are sophisticated devices

"Sergeant Chamorro has an uncanny ability to identify a need for a special tool, visualize a tool to perform the job, and manufacture the tools. He is a resourceful, creative and solution-oriented person who comes up with new and innovative approaches to projects."

to accomplish a delicate problem like a special tool that extracts an output drive shaft from a UH-60 engine. Some of the ideas are simple and obvious solutions that make the jobs of helicopter mechanics easier and provide better protection to costly and fragile parts of the aircraft. It's easy to describe some of the ideas as simple and obvious but that only happens after Chamorro has thought of them and brought the insightful ideas to reality in the unit's machine shop.

An example of that is a wooden rack that holds the helicopter blades once they are detached. The blades are valued at thousands of dollars. The blades were placed on pads on the work area floor and had to be carried, one by one from place to place. There was always a danger of damage to one of the expensive blades. Chamorro's idea was a wooden rack on wheels that holds the blades in position, protects them from accidents while laying on the repair hanger floor and makes it convenient to move them from area to area.

Some of the ideas are remedies for backbreaking jobs like replacing a helicopter tire. Under the Technical Manual procedure for doing this, you had to wrestle with the tire on the maintenance shed floor to replace it. Chamorro developed an arm that bolts to a work bench so a mechanic can change the tire from a standing and much more comfortable position. PS Senior Aviation Writer Chase says the tire mounting device invented by Chamorro will be featured in the magazine in the December or January edition of the publication. "The device," said Chase, "is a classic example of Andy coming up with a



Photo by Sgt. Jorda St. John, STARC PAO

great workable solution to a troublesome maintenance problem."

"I've always liked working with different materials and gadgets and coming up with different ways of doing things," said Chamorro. That's a talent that apparently runs in the family as he says his 22-year-old son, Andres III, is studying to be a mechanical engineer. "He does all the mechanical drawings once I've developed a new tool and helps me with the application process for acceptance," he said. Chamorro says of all his accomplishments he is most proud of his two children, Andres III, who graduated this year with a mechanical engineering degree from Northeastern University and Diana, who is a business administration graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth.

As far as what the next bright idea or invention might be, Chamorro says he doesn't have a specific idea and never really plans a specific project. "I'll see a new problem and that will kick off the process for developing something new."

That's the attitude of the resident mechanical genius that is the Massachusetts Army Guard's Leonardo DaVinci.

Sgt. Andres Chamorro places a UH-60 main rotor blade into a wooden rack he developed to store the blades during maintenance.



Photo by Sgt. Jorda St. John, STARC PAO

Hot dogs a plenty at the Hot Dog Safari

By Spc. Matthew Benedetti, STARC PAO

Eddie Andelman has always been an innovator and guy who can get his point across. Perhaps it was his experience developing and co-hosting the 1st of its kind “Sports Huddle” radio program 30 years ago or his many successful sports shows since that time that compelled him to establish the great tradition of the Hot Dog safari.

Clearly, the event designed to raise money for the victims and family members of Cystic Fibrosis (CF) through the Joey Fund, has grown every year.

By utilizing the talents of business leaders, sports legends and the Mass. NG the HD safari has set fundraising records for the Joey Fund every year since the inaugural in 1990.

Cystic Fibrosis is a genetic disease that affects over 30,000 kids and adults in the US. CF is the most common fatal disease with 1,000 cases annually. The Hot Dog Safari was started 13 years ago by Eddie in memory of Joey O'Donnell the son of his friend Joe O'Donnell.

Although progress is being made in fighting CF, there is not yet a cure. All of the funds raised by the Hot Dog Safari go to the research and treatment of CF.

This May 18, a gorgeous day that seemed to confirm the arrival of Spring, an estimated 50,000 folks with healthy appetites came to Suffolk Downs in East Boston early and

stayed late for this year's Hot Dog Safari. The festivities were broadcast on 1510 the Zone all day. Celebrities stopped by and talked with Eddie on air. Luminaries from Boston's political, business and sports world were present. Governor Mitt Romney and Lt. Governor Kerry Healey attended as well as several other elected officials. Hall of Fame Bruin (I try to forget the year in Colorado) Ray Bourque thanked

Guardsmen for their service and spent time chatting with several soldiers. Eddie was very grateful to the National Guard for their assistance. “We could not do the Hot Dog Safari without the help of the National Guard. We are grateful to all of the soldiers who make it possible.”

Capt. Phil Touchette of the Massachusetts Army National Guard became involved in 1993.

He is in charge of the 50 Mass. Guard volunteers who cooked an incredible 135,000 hot dogs at this year's event. Obviously, this tremendous undertaking takes months of planning; coordinating and diligent hard work by everyone involved. Capt. Touchette can attest: “We cooked over 130,000 hot dogs today and our people did a tremendous job. We also cooked 50,000 meatballs and several cans of beans. Everyone volunteered and most will be back next year if they can do it.”

Many soldiers noted the warm greetings and recognition from kids and adults in the 50,000 strong crowd. Frequently, kids stopped me and asked about the Army or were just excited to be speaking with a soldier. Passersby would acknowledge the uniform by simply saying, “thank you for serving”.

It is true, of course, that the military has always been a symbol of national pride, but never more than in a time of war.

Sgt. Ryan Taylor of the 726 Finance Company received a similar response,

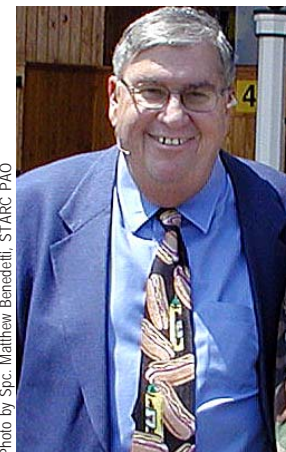


Photo by Spc. Matthew Benedetti, STARC PAO

Eddie Andelman, host of a sports radio talk show on 1510 am, is the founder of the Hot Dog Safari. The annual event raises funds for Cystic Fibrosis research.



Photo by Spc. Matthew Benedetti, STARC PAO





Photo by Spc. Matthew Benedetti, STARC PAO

"It was my first time participating in this event and I hope to be here again. Kids seemed to be in awe of the uniform and people appeared to be more comfortable that we were there."

Army recruiter Sgt. 1st Class John O'Connor echoed the sentiment, "We had a great day. The response was overwhelmingly positive." Army recruiters set up a booth and handed out t-shirts and other items to the kids all day. "Several prior service people were interested in getting back in. Also, we had a lot of young people eager to serve. They were very impressed with the uniform," noted O'Connor.

The 13th annual Hot Dog safari raised \$175,000 for the research and treatment of CF. The enormous crowd had a great time and represented a cross section of Massachusetts. True to their history the National Guard responded to the challenge, selflessly serving members of the community who needed help.

Master Sgt. Dennis Martin of the 51st Troop Command cooks up hot dogs during Eddie Andelman's Hot Dog Safari to benefit the Joey Fund.

Rain can't stop a marathon or Guinee

By Spc. David Claffey, STARC PAO

Over 150 Guard runners braved the rain soaked streets of Lincoln, Neb. for 26.2 miles as part of the 20th annual National Guard Bureau Marathon held May 2.

Near the top of the pack was Massachusetts Air National Guardsman Lt. Col. Kevin Guinee, who finished the grueling race in a time of 2:57:29, placing 20th overall and fourth among runners over the age of 40.

A member of the 253rd Combat Communications Group on Cape Cod, he was the lone Baystate runner this year in an unusually thin field.

The number of runners this year was cut in half because of recent deployments. Guard mobilizations for Operation Iraqi Freedom undoubtedly contributed to this year's decline, but despite smaller numbers, the Guard members overcame difficult conditions to win top honors.

Rain delayed the start of the marathon for 15 minutes, and intermittent showers caused some stiff legs at the start. It took several miles for the competitors to finally get loose, but even then, the wet pavement and rain hampered the race.

"For the first couple of miles I was cold," said Spc. Mike Dudley, a combat engineer who clocked the fastest time. "After I reached the five mile mark I got into a rhythm and felt more

comfortable."

Guinee is a member of the National Guard Masters Marathon Team, a spot he earned from his performance in a previous Guard Marathon. He is a regular at various distance events around the state, running in past Boston Marathons and smaller races, often finishing in the top ten.

Led by Dudley, Oregon won the overall team title, edging out Indiana and Hawaii for the second year in a row.

"Our performance was great today," said Senior Master Sgt. Max White, Oregon's team captain. "We defended our team title and I think we can do it again next year."

They may race again next year, as Guinee plans to, hopefully under much drier conditions.

Kevin Guinee, rain soaked and tired, runs through the wet streets of Lincoln Neb.

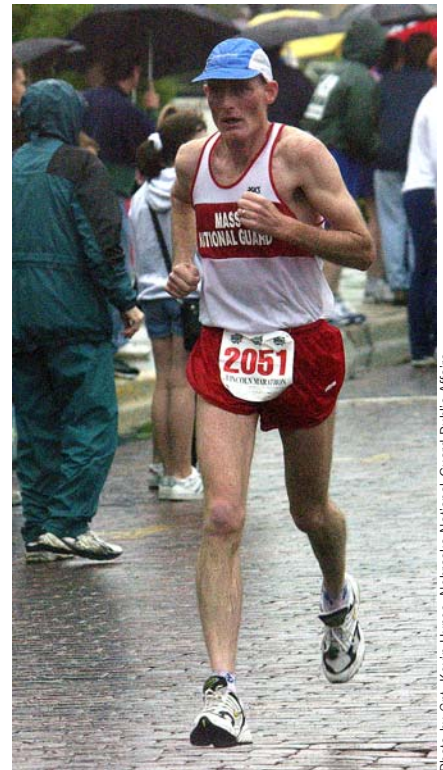


Photo by Cpt. Kevin Hynes, Nebraska National Guard Public Affairs

Running through the Boston green

By Cadet Lindsey Elder, STARC PAO

While hundreds of Massachusetts National Guard soldiers and airmen serve overseas in the Middle East and Southwest Asia, approximately 400 more voluntarily answered the call for homeland defense, securing the streets from Hopkinton to Boston for the 107th running of the Boston Marathon.

Last year's race, the first since 9-11, and this year's, the first in years run while our nation is at war, held an inspiring sense of appreciation for the added military presence. While the runners were warming up for the arduous 26-mile course, it was the soldiers who were asked for autographs and thanked for their efforts.

Added security and crowd control at the running of the Boston Marathon has been a Mass. National Guard tradition for over twenty years. Hundreds of soldiers from all specialties were eager to help with anything involving the public's safety, especially in a case where the event can do so much for the state's morale and provide guardsmen a chance to shine while doing their 365-year-old mission: homeland defense.

"It's entirely voluntary," said Capt. Thomas Reed, Company Commander for C Company, 181st Engineer Battalion in Adams, Massachu-

setts. "It's inspiring because soldiers from the western part of the state have to be up and ready by 3a.m. to help." Soldiers were on guard at the start point in Hopkinton, providing added protection and surveillance for any attempted threats against the century-old tradition that draws thousands to the city.

Soldiers were also placed as added security for the elite runners. "We're placed wherever they need us the most," said Spc. Thomas Brick of the

181st Engineer Battalion.

"We do what we can do, and try to represent the Massachusetts National Guard the best that we can. Anything to do with actively going out and helping the public – we're motivated," said Spc. Troy MacDonald of the 102nd Field Artillery who was at the start point.

The Massachusetts Air National Guard also contributed to the day's event, as a fly over of two F-15 fighter jets, courtesy of the 102nd Fighter Wing, accompanied the conclusion of the National Anthem at the start of the race.

Aside from security operations, the Mass. National Guard also had several runners in the Marathon, the fastest being Senior Airman Joshua Hill from the 102nd Communications Squadron with a time of 3:54. Finishing second for the registered Guard member-runners was Maj. Kris Briggs with a time of 4:15, and third was Sgt. 1st Class Felix Padiol from Recruiting and Retention Command at 4:24.

Of the 17 soldiers registered as runners for the Mass. National Guard, other top finishers were Staff Sgt. William Pouliot of the 726th Finance Battalion, Maj. William Faubion of the 104th Fighter Wing, Capt. James Yates from Headquarters Battery, 101st Field Artillery, Chief Warrant Officer Thomas Lamont of STARC, Spc. Kevin Maloney of the 1-126th Aviation, and Sgt. Derek Goodman of Alpha Battery, 101st Field Artillery.

At the start, and along the route of the race, yellow ribbons were in flight as often as the red white and blue, and it was clear that Massachusetts citizens were proud of their troops. Truly, the guardsmen of the state, at home and abroad, could also be proud of their achievements this Patriot's day.

Other National Guard runners for the 107th Boston Marathon (in order of finishing):

Master Sgt. John O'Keefe, 102nd Air Generation Squadron

Master Sgt. Paul Ronan, STARC

Staff Sgt. Lynn Briggs, STARC

Spc. Gloria Rosario, Detachment 1, B Company, 226th DASB

Sgt. Isabel Sweet, Headquarters Detachment, 726th Finance Battalion

Spc. Jonathan Ruth, E Company, 126th Aviation

Sgt. 1st Class Richard Guzofski, Service Battery, 102nd Field Artillery

Soldiers from the 102nd Field Artillery and people from throughout the area line the streets of Hopkinton, the starting point for the Boston Marathon. Guarding part of the 26.2 mile course, the soldiers looked for anything that may hinder the annual event.



Photo by Spc. David Claffey, STARC PAO

Family in the force

By Sgt. Jordan St. John, STARC PAO

It's not unusual these days for a parent to watch a son or daughter who is a National Guard soldier be called to active duty and sent overseas. It is unusual when the parent is a unit commander and the deployed soldier is his son.

That's the case of Colonel Thomas Sellars of Randolph, Ma., commander of the 42nd Division Artillery of the Massachusetts Army National Guard, and his son Staff Sergeant Jason T. Sellars, from E Battery of the 101st Field Artillery.

"Like any father, I'm concerned and proud," said Colonel Sellars. "In this case, I know the training my son has had and know that makes him prepared and qualified for this important mission. I also know there will be someone to keep a watch over him because my brother, Chief Warrant Officer Michael H. Sellars, the section chief for E Battery, is also going on the mission."

Chief Warrant Officer Sellars says it is an especially proud time for him to be serving in the Guard with his nephew and for them both to have the opportunity to take part in this history-making mission.

The younger Sellars and his uncle are part of an eight-man Target Acquisition Battery (TAB)

crew recently activated for Operation Enduring Freedom and heading for duty with Central Command. The team is replacing a Target Acquisition element that has been on the ground in the theater for almost six months.

"Our first soldiers took over the mission from an active duty unit and the leadership of the 18th Airborne Corps were so impressed with the unit's level of professionalism that they asked us here at the 42nd to continue the mission," explained Sellars. "That's a tribute to the professionalism of the soldiers of this Division and the Massachusetts Army National Guard."

Battery E members said their quiet goodbyes to family and friends just a few days before they deployed. Sellars said the soldiers are going into the mission with a bit of an advantage since they will be taking over the important target acquisition radar mission from fellow members of their own unit.

"As a commander, I always pay close attention to the units performance and how the soldiers are doing," he said. This time, with a son and brother involved, he says that he will be especially close to the mission.

181st engineers overrun by... 3rd graders

By Sgt. June A. Norton, UPAR, 181st Engineer Battalion

The 181st Engineer Battalion was invaded by a bunch of third graders.

On June 3 some 16 students from the Balmer Elementary School in Whitinsville marched up the steps and invaded the battalion headquarters. Accompanied by their mastermind teacher Miss Mahoney, the student's first mission was to watch a short video on a civic action project in Benedum, W. Va. The battalion's soldiers helped build an airport in that state.

The video gave the class a feel for what the National Guard can do for the community. They also commandeered several Meals Ready to Eat to learn what soldiers eat when out in the field. When one student remarked "Wow, you guys get candy!" it was clear they were impressed.

Next was a move into the drill shed to learn how field communications are handled. Assisted by Sgt. 1st Class Javier Viera of HHC, each student learned how the phones were connected to operate in a field environment and got a turn to talk to each other on field phones. Although they were difficult for the students to get the

hang of, it was apparent they were enjoying themselves. However, they were all thankful that only the military has to use field phones.

The final mission for the students was to see and sit in several military vehicles. Led by Maj. Joseph Zuffanti, the 181st Engineer's executive officer, the students were given the opportunity to sit behind the wheel of a 40-ton trailer, a 5-ton maintenance vehicle and a small emplacement excavator. They were in awe of how high the driver sits in the 40-ton trailer and how big the steering wheels were.

Their mission was a great success. After asking many questions and taking even more notes, they returned to their school with a better understanding of what the 181st Engineer Battalion and the Army National Guard can do in the community. Upon their departure, several students promised to come back...once they graduated from high school.



Photo by Sgt. June A. Norton, 181st Engineer Battalion

Lt. Gen. Blum visits the Bay State

By Capt. Lisa Ahaesy, 102nd Fighter Wing

National Guard Bureau's Chief, Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, is on a mission to change the way we - the National Guard - operate. And he's starting at the top.

During his first official appearance outside Washington, D.C., as the NGB's newest chief, General Blum addressed an audience of more than 400 Army and Air National Guard members from the nation's 54 states and territories at the Third Annual National Guard Bureau Equal Opportunity/Equal Employment Opportunity Training Conference held in Boston in June.

The conference was hosted by the Massachusetts National Guard and held at the Seaport Hotel, located on Boston Harbor. This year's conference, themed "Excellence in Equal Opportunity," was coordinated by Ms.

Jacqueline Ray-Morris and Mrs. Phyllis Brantley of the National Guard Bureau's Office of Equal Opportunity

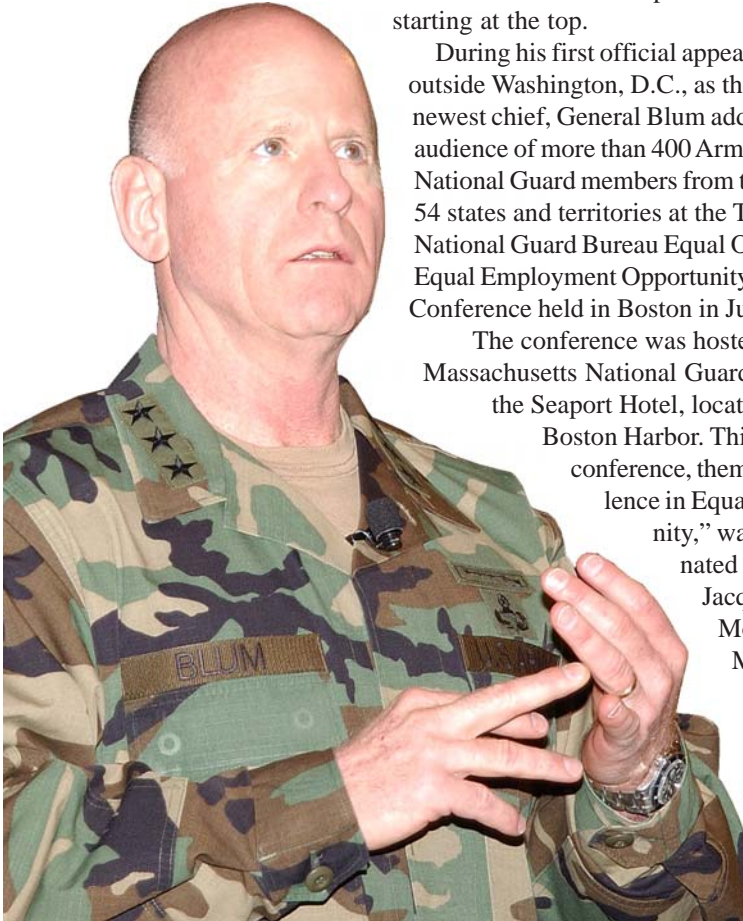
and offered first-rate training to all new and seasoned EO and EEO professionals throughout the National Guard.

The weeklong conference took months of planning by the Seaport Hotel's staff of dedicated professionals and members of the Massachusetts National Guard Human Resources Office. Workshops focused on mission, readiness, strength, leadership, teamwork and diversity. The coordinators designed the program, shifting paradigms to allow time for more workshops that were hands-on and interactive. Participants were challenged with discussion on national and local issues related to equal opportunity, equal employment opportunity and civil rights.

Maj. Gen. George Keefe, The Adjutant General of Massachusetts, welcomed General Blum and gave the opening address. "Welcome to Massachusetts," he told them. "This is a hard-working conference. I challenge you to get out and work it hard."

"Five to 10 years ago, there was nothing to EO or EEO ... I am proud to say today that we've come a long way. I am proud of Massachusetts. I have never met a more dedicated bunch of men and women," General Keefe said.

"What a magnificent place to have this conference. General Keefe and the Massachusetts National Guard know how to do things right," General Blum told conference participants.



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